Educational Bank to Finance Education Expenditure for the poor

*236. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start an Educational Bank or make one scheduled bank as the model agency to advance loans to the poor and middle class students repayable on soft term basis;

(b) whether the central and state educational institutions propose to adopt only merit system, based on marksheets or entrance examinations for admission in schools and colleges; and

(c) whether Government propose to prohibit educational institutions from charging capitation fee in clandestine manner and penalise any violations?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, Commercial Banks have been providing need based finance under the "Educational Loans" scheme.

(b) The government are of the view that admissions to institutions of higher and technical education should he made on certain objective criteria such as merit and reservation policy. The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) issued guidelines for admission to Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics, to State Governments/Union Territories for initiating steps to implement them with effect from the academic year 1991-92. The University Grants Commission (UGC) prescribed minimum standards for admission to the first degree course.

(c) The government have been urging the State governments to take steps to prevent charging of capitation fees. Some States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Karnataka enacted legislation banning capitation fee.

The AICTE is vested with statutory powers to lay down guidelines, inter alia, in regard to fees charged by technical institutions. The guidelines are under consideration of AICTE. The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987 proposes to abolish capitation fees as presently charged by private medical colleges and would enable the council to fix the ceiling of tuition fees and other charges. The Bill was referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament which gave its report in July, 1989. The Bill is pending in Rajya Sabha for consideration.

Confiscated Foreign Currency in the custody of Enforcement Directorate

*237. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the practice for keeping in custody the confiscated foreign currency by the Enforcement Directorate;

(b) what is the total amount as per the latest figures available of the confiscated foreign currency in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate;

(c) whether considering the question of meeting the foreign exchange crisis Government propose to bring about a change in the existing practice and to deposit the foreign currency in the Reserve Bank of India or public sector banks after the completion of the adjudication process regarding the seized currency, and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The seized currencies are kept in safe custody either in the safes

available in the field officers of the Enforcement Directorate or in the banks lockers hired for the purpose.

(b) The approximate value of seized foreign currencies lying in the custody of Enforcement Directorate, as on 30-6-91, was more than Rs. 10 crores.

(c) and (d) It is permissible in the existing law to encash seized foreign currencies and to deposit the proceeds thereof in the bank for credit to the Central Government after completion of adjudication process, if the currency is ordered to be confiscated.

Amendment to Companies Act to provide for Annual Environmental Audit

*238. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has a proposal to recommend amendment in the Companies Act thereby making compulsory for companies to conduct a yearly environmental audit as part of the balance sheet;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendments to be made in the law to make the environmental audit compulsory;

(c) whether the Law Ministry has since agreed to make amendments in the Act; and

(d) if so, by when it will be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is that every company shall, in the Report of its Board of Directors, disclose briefly particulars of compliance with environmental laws, steps taken or propose to be taken towards adoption of clean technologies for prevention of pollution, waste minimisation, waste recycling and utilisation; pollution control measures; investment on environmental protection and impact of these measures on waste reduction, water and other resource conservation.

(c) and (d) The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Law & Justice & Company Affairs.

Norms laid down by P.C.I. for recognition of Institutions offering Diploma Course in Pharmacy

*239. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms criteria laid down by the Pharmacy Council of India for recognition/affiliation of an institution for approved Diploma Course in Pharmacy i.e. D. Pharma; and

(b) whether Pharmacy Council of India or any other authority prescribes syllabus, books, etc. for diploma in D. Pharma, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Norms and criteria for recognition of an institution for approved Diploma Course in Pharmacy have been laid down by the Pharmacy Council of India in the Education Regulations framed under the Pharmacy Act, 1948. The broad conditions to be fulfilled by an academic training institution for purposes of approval/recognition relate to (i) accommodation facilities and phsical infrastructure (ii) laboratories for different subjects and other facilities like aseptic room and animal house, and (iii) staffing pattern concerning the faculty.

(b) With the prior approval of the Government of India, the Pharmacy Council of India have prescribed the syllabus, books, etc., for Diploma in Pharmacy in the Education Regulations, 1981.